

Executive Regis:

12-153/w

[Handwritten signature]
Mr. Holland French
Commissioner
The Salvation Army
120-130 West Fourteenth Street
New York, N. Y.

20 DEC 1959

Dear Commissioner French:

Thank you very much for your letter of 16 December and the enclosed copy of the remarks that you made at the annual meeting of The Salvation Army Association.

I want you to know how much I appreciate your kind comments about my talk and it was very thoughtful of you to write to me as you did. I might add that it was a great honor for me to receive the distinguished citation of your organization and it will certainly give me strength and encouragement in the years that lie ahead.

With best wishes for the holiday season,

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

O/DCI/ :mtf (12/24/59)

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY)

Exe. Registry
12-153

WILFRED KITCHING
GENERAL



HOLLAND FRENCH
TERRITORIAL COMMANDER

THE SALVATION ARMY

WILLIAM BOOTH, FOUNDER

TERRITORIAL HEADQUARTERS

120-130 WEST FOURTEENTH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y.

OFFICE OF
THE TERRITORIAL COMMANDER

December 16, 1959

Personal!

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
2723 "Q" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

It was a thrill to meet you yesterday and to hear your splendid message. Thank you for giving time to The Salvation Army in this manner.

We have had many fine compliments concerning the presentation of your message, which was most timely. This will create more interest in you, on the part of the people who gathered together for our Association Meeting. I am sure that from this time on many additional prayers will ascend to the Throne of Grace on your behalf in the tremendous task that has been imposed upon you by our country.

Thank you for the gracious and friendly manner which you exhibited to us yesterday.

As per your request, I am sending you a copy of the remarks that I made at the Meeting. If there is any way in which we can be helpful to your Department please call upon The Salvation Army. We are ready to serve anyone - anywhere - at any time.

God bless you!

Sincerely yours,


(H. French)
COMMISSIONER

Enc.

ADDRESS OF COMMISSIONER HOLLAND FRENCH

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SALVATION ARMY ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 15, 1959

It is a thrilling experience for me to greet you today. Together we serve as comrades in a cause which is at once common and yet uncommon.

I realize how much of your heart and your help you give freely and faithfully in support of our program. Here in the world's "greatest city" are people who are in greatest need. Skyscrapers and subways and super-markets offer little strength for struggling souls. Indeed, while a city's bigness may be measured by miles and population, a city's greatness is measured by concern and compassion for the needy.

Your presence here is eloquent tribute to the fact that you, too, realize the great needs that still exist despite the heroic work being done by so many worthy organizations and agencies.

Particularly at this time of the year, all mankind feels the glow and warmth of the Yule log...the spark of rekindled hope...the flame of renewed faith. Our minds and hearts are moved by the magic and the wonder of Christmas.

Christmas to me is the season for remembering, whether it be expressed by card or by care, by lights or by love, by tinsel or by tenderness, by packages or by prayer. More than this, Christmas means that God Himself remembered us through the gift of His only begotten Son. In appreciation for such a Magnificent Remembrance, we officers, soldiers and friends of The Salvation Army have pledged our hearts and hands in a magnificent obsession -- the salvation of all oppressed by sorrow, suffering and sin.

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Glance at the headlines shouting of crime and listen to the heart-lines crying for help. It is clear that it is not only the kids who are "crazy mixed-up." Huxley sums up the crises and confusion of our culture in the phrase "A staggering juxtaposition of values."

You see, we are more perplexed by the missile dash than by the moral crash.

We are more concerned with the speed of satellite than the significance of the Star over Bethlehem.

We are intrigued by payola and bored by principle.

We have rigged contests and rejected commandments.

Being part of this world, and at the same time dedicated to leading men and women to a better world, Salvationists believe that a realistic evaluation is wiser than a superficial summation of basic needs and problems. This does not lead us down into the valley of despair, distress and distrust; it leads us, instead, up the mountain of faith, hope and charity.

In The Salvation Army we have "no time for sergeants" who pout and pine. In the strength and spirit of the One who "went about doing good," we are not hurt by the slur, "just a do-gooder!" We take it as a compliment. An Army of do-gooders can lick any Army of do-badders any day!

You see, we have taken the positive approach to people in need ever since 1880 when the first party of Salvationists set foot on American soil down at Battery Park.

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We have taken the positive approach in building character through our greatly-expanding youth program -- through our boys' clubs, our summer camps, our young people's bands, and our Bible classes for teen-agers.

We have taken the positive approach in our men's and women's social service centers by guiding men and women from the wayward path and into a broader and brighter way of life.

We have taken the positive approach in the problems of juvenile and parental delinquency, alcoholism, and dope addiction by bringing into effective co-ordination the full facilities of scores of specialized centers in this city.

A great tribute comes in the prayer of a patient in the cancer ward who said to a member of our League of Mercy: "You say, God bless me; I say, God love you!" Or the comment of a converted alcoholic who said: "I have strength in my heart now -- not in the bottle." Or the unspoken thanks of the once-split family now reunited through the efforts of this year's evangelistic crusade, "The Family for Christ." Mom and Dad who couldn't stand each other a while ago, now proudly stand together with their three children in Salvation Army uniform, as they tell others of God's love. In a day when the divorce rate is rising at a dizzy pace, we have concentrated much of our efforts on family service and personal counselling.

We believe in the goodness of people despite the deceit of some.

We believe in the triumph of truth over the tyranny of deception.

We believe in God in a time when too many have put their trust in false gods and flimsy goods.

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We believe that what America makes is fabulous but that what makes America is fundamental.

We believe in the life and teachings of the Bible in a period in history when we see angry and anguished young adults being misled by the Devil-inspired attack on conventions and customs that were founded on the Ten Commandments.

These "Beatniks" symbolize the beaten spirit of beaten people on a beaten path - those who have become discouraged, disgruntled, disheveled, and even disinherited.

The positive approach and spirit of the Christian faith encourages all of us, even the beatniks, to be "Win-niks."

Our courage and our conviction say the same as our coin: "In God We Trust." Here is the positive approach to positive living, to a faith that will not shrink when thrown into the machine of affliction.

(Story - "Elevation Army")

With your trust in us -- and our trust in God -- we in the "Elevation Army," march forward with a positive approach to the spiritual and temporal needs of our fellow men.

In the traditional words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us all," as we serve together in a cause which, I repeat, is common and yet uncommon!

Thank you.